Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-11. Cancelled.

12. A method for treating a human having an:

(a) aberrant or undesired apoptosis or

(b) a disease associated with aberrant apoptosis

comprising administering to said human an effective amount of a pharmaceutical preparation comprising xenon or a xenon gas mixture.

13. The method according to claim 12 comprising, preventing or reducing cellular damage of tissue or organs to be transplanted in a human.

14. The method according to claim 12 comprising preventing or reducing apoptotic cell death after eye laser surgery.

15. The method according to claim 12 comprising protecting endothelial cells of the intestine in sepsis.

16. The method according to any one of claims 12 to 15 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains 5 to 90% by volume of xenon.

17. The method according to claims 16 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation contains 5 to 30% by volume of xenon.

18. The method according to any one of claims 12 to 15 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation additionally contains oxygen, nitrogen and/or air.

19. The method according to any of claims 12 to 15 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation additionally contains helium, NO, CO, CO_2, other gaseous compounds and/or inhalable medicaments.

20. The method according to claim 16 wherein the pharmaceutical preparation has a ratio of xenon to oxygen of 80 to 20% by volume.

21. A method of preparing a pharmaceutical preparation by mixing xenon with another gas harmless to humans.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein xenon is mixed with an oxygen-containing gas.

23. A pharmaceutical preparation comprising a xenon gas mixture, wherein the xenon to oxygen ratio is 80 to 20% by volume.

24. The pharmaceutical preparation of claim 23 which additionally contains helium, NO, CO, CO_2, and other gaseous compounds and/or inhalable medicaments.